

## CLAIMS

1. A protein selected from (a) to (d):
  - (a) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1;
  - 5 (b) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein one or more amino acids have been modified by deletion, substitution, addition, and/or insertion;
  - (c) a protein comprising a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions with a polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2; and
  - 10 (d) a protein comprising an amino acid sequence having 60% homology to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.
2. A polynucleotide encoding the protein of claim 1 or a portion thereof.
- 15 3. The polynucleotide of claim 2, which comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.
4. A pharmaceutical comprising the protein of claim 1.
- 20 5. The pharmaceutical of claim 4, which is used to prevent, improve, or treat cardiac failure, cardiomegaly, myocarditis, cardiomyopathy, arteriosclerosis, arteriosclerosis obliterans, or ischemic heart disease.
6. A pharmaceutical comprising the polynucleotide of claim 2.
- 25 7. The pharmaceutical of claim 6, which is used to prevent, improve, or treat cardiac failure, cardiomegaly, myocarditis, cardiomyopathy, arteriosclerosis, arteriosclerosis obliterans, or ischemic heart disease.